

The Last

SPEECHES AND CONFESSIONS

OF

Captain *James Walcott*, *John Row*, and
William Row, *Joyner*

At the Common Place

On Friday the 20th of July, 1683

Who were all found Guilty of

High-Treason,

For Conspiring the Death of

His Most Sacred Majesty,

And his Royal Brother

James Duke of York.

And his Royal Brother

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And his Royal Brother

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so manifestly by the horrid Confession, they detected the
guilt of God's Majesty, how, when they thought themselves
as good as certain of their carrying on their design answerable to
their own minds and bloody dispositions, that then their in-
tentions were laid open, and their ends discovered, and their own
lives brought into a question, as may be seen in the following
Lines.

At the Sessions of Oyer and Terminer, that began at the Old Bay-
ly, on the 27th day of May 1681. When the Court was sitte,
Captain Thomas *Walton* appeared at the Bar, his Indictment be-
ing read, he pleaded not guilty; but *Col. Ramsey* testified upon
Oath that there had been divers Consultations about killing the
King as He was to return from *Newmarket*, and that it was de-
signed to be done near the dwelling house of one *Richard Mal-*
ster, but not from *Hudson* in *Herfordshire*, and that *Walton* was
in nomination to be the person that should perpetrate this Villany,
but he related to his that *and John* rather strange, the Diseguard
which was attending His Majesty, that they being cut off, they
might the more easily carry on their purpose.

Colonel Ramsey declared that there was several Consultations
held about this Diabolical confivance, which the Lord Chief
Justice *Pemberton* by his commandary into, found to be at several
places, namely at *St. James's Church*, and at a Tavern within
Alacgate, and about *mile end Green*, to which *Walton* pleaded,
that at that time these Consultations were held, he was Lame
of the foot, and witness offered to justify the same, made answer,
that he was not lame at that time, but he could not positively
swear.

Then Captain *Walton* reply'd that it was very hard that four
men should conspire against his Life, and impeaching him for
their own.

But Mr. Attorney General opened the Case, laying open the
danger of concealing Treason, to which he answered that he was
merely drawn in to the concern, and also that he thought concea-
ling of Treason was but misprision of Treason, but my Lord an-
swered that to be in Consultation and not to discover was real
Treason.

So the Jury having taken notice of what he Confessed, imme-
diately brought in their Verdict, that he was Guilty of High
Treason.

Will. Howe having been Examined on *Tuesday* was again
brought to the Bar on Friday morning, and then asked the Plea
he made yesterday might be allowed, which was, that he was
Guilty of a Conspiracy, but not concerned in raising of Arms to
cause a Rebellion, but the Indictment imputed, that he was false
Treason he had conspired to depose the King of his Crown and
Dignity, and particularly at a Consultation the second of *March*,
in the Parish of *St. Michael* Bishop, where *Richard Broughton*,
Hollway *Ker*, *Fraunce* and *Richard Goodenough*, and many other
Tray-

The next that came to the Bar was Mr. Knave, who had several Witches sworn against him, and accused him for the same crimes as Grimes; as well as that he could write the holy defence for himself. It was absolutely sworn against him that he had a hand in the Conspiracy against the Majesty's Life; but notwithstanding this, the Justice of the Court soon brought him to Guilty of HIGH TREASON, and he was charged with several Treasonable Doctrines, as the only defence the King's Majesty, and so to levy War, and by flustering the people up to sedition, whereby to raise a Rebellion, and subvert the Government. All which the Witches for the King positively swore; and he being not able to deny the same, the Sentence was past against him, and the other two, in manner following:

That they should be Drawn upon Scaffolds, to the place of Execution, and there to be hanged by the Neck, their Privy Members to be cut off before their Faces, and thrown into the Fire; then their heads to be cut off, and their Bodies Quartered, and their Quarters to be set up, as in such Cases of Treason is usual.

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During the time of their Impisonment they seemed very peni-
 tent, and were very diligent in their spiritual Exercises: And also lamenting their
 sad and miserable Condition, which they had brought upon them-
 selves by following such wicked and unreasonable practices, in con-
 sidering the Death of so many of their Friends: On some times visit-
 ing their Companions and Accomplish, And many such familiarity
 been concerned with. Only the Captain seemed the most ob-
 stinate, and least concerned.

On Friday the 20th of this present Month 1649 being the
 day of their Execution, having taken leave of their Friends
 and Relations, they were drawn in Sledge, attended with a nu-
 merous Guard of Cavaliers and other Officers, and being
 brought to the place of Execution, they made there several speeches
 and exhortations to the people that stood round about them, in-
 stead of their usual Oath, by their authority, and to have
 been what Company they kept, with all persons to fear God,
 and to honour their King, and to avoid all treasonable Practices,
 which will sufficiently being demonstration both to God and Man.
 But one of them seemed to extenuate his Crime, and to blame
 the King for his death, and was concerned with.

But the CROWD being very great, we can give you
 but some short Account of what they spoke before their
 Execution.

When the Executioner had done his work, the
 eyes of the multitude were filled with tears,
 every one lamenting the sad conditions of these poor
 and miserable wretches, who had engaged themselves in-
 to this bloody enterprise, but too late they may la-
 ment their sad destinies.

It is great pity that so many brave and worthy Gen-
 tlemen should engage themselves in such a horrid con-
 spiracy that the world before never heard of, because
 this Plot was contrived by persons pretending to zeal
 and Religion, which is not, nor cannot be suitable to
 rules of Christianity, for we all know that shedding of
 blood is clearly contrary to the commands of the Al-
 mighty.

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THE
EXECUTION
AND
CONFESSION
WITH THE
Behaviour & Speeches
OF

Capt. *Thomas Walcot*, *William Hone*, and *John Rouse*, who according to the Sentence pronounced against them at the *Old-Bayley*, on the 12th Instant, were this 20th of *July* Drawn, Hanged and Quartered, for Traytorously Conspiring to Assassinate and Murther the King in his return from *New-Market*, and the Establish'd Government to Subvert, &c.

Entred according to ORDER.

A Hellish conspiracy of divers wicked and desperate persons against the Kings Life and Government having been sometime past discovered, upon the Issuing out of His Majesties Proclamation, amongst other Traytors and Conspirators these, on whom Justice has deservedly fixed Her severest mark, were apprehended, *viz.* *Thomas Walcot*, *William Hone* and *John Rouse*, Men wholly bent to shed innocent Blood, and lay their Country waste, not in the least bogling to ingage themselves solemnly to Murther the King, his Royal Brother, and after that, all such as should oppose their Monstrous and Tyranical proceedings; but being

being prevented by Providence, even to a miracle, all their pernicious devices vanished into Air, and themselves rendered dreadful Examples to posterity, and fully opened the eyes of such as would not be persuaded, but this sort of men were men of harmless principles, and that what had passed in the Days of *Ignoramus*, were but Shams to amuse the people. But to particulars:

The Prisoners aforesaid being in sundry places apprehended, order was given for their Tryals at the Sessions of *Oyer and Terminer*, holden at the *Sessions-House* in the *Old Baley*, &c. where *Walcot* being Arraigned, Pleaded *Not Guilty* to his Indictment, in which were specified the Treasons of which he stood accused, as his designing the Murder of the King, and a miserable slaughter of his Subjects, to leavy War and Rebellion, &c. whereupon the Evidence being called, the principal of which were *Colknel Rumsey*, *Mr. West* and *Mr. Keeling*, who having declared the manner of the Conspiracy, and to what intent it was carryed on, charged the Prisoner with being at divers Consults, where the death of the King and the Duke of *Tork* were resolved upon, and that upon their return from *New-market*; at what time *Walcot* was appointed with a Commanded Party to fall upon the Guards, whilst *Rumbold* the Malster was to Assassinate his Majesty and Royal Highness, and others to Kill the Postillion, Coachman and Horses, and that they stiled him the *English Gulin*, saying, he would be such when at the head of an Army. And it was further witnessed against him, that he had provided himself Horse and Arms, and went to take a view of *Rumbold's House* near *Hadsden*, and did approve of its commodiousness for the perpetration of the Villany, which was to have been done whilst an overthrown Cart had stopped His Majesties Coach; and that the Prisoner was tempted to undertake the actual Assassination, but he refused it, saying, he would not kill a naked man, but would undertake Fighting the Guards. (These and other Treasonable Conspiracies being proved against him, and a Letter produced which he had sent to *Sir Leoline Jenkins*, therein promising to make a more perfect discovery of the Hellish design, both in *England* and *Ireland*, than what as he believed others were able to do, if he might thereby hope for any mercy at His Majesties hands; as likewise another Letter taken from him in Prison, drawn up in order to be sent to a Friend of his, to intreat *Collonel Rumsey* and *Mr. West* to be favourable to him in their Evidence, he was found Guilty; and two days after, viz. on *Saturday* last received Sentence to be Drawn, Hanged and Quartered: At what time he only desired that his Friends might be permitted to visit him during his continuance in *Newgate*, which was allowed; and so, as a Man not seeming much concerned at what had befallen him, he was conveyed to the place from whence he came.

William Hone succeeding *Walcot* in taking his Tryal at the *Old-Baily* for conspiring the Death of the King, Leavying War, and procuring Arms, with many treasonable Expressions by him uttered, he at first denyed the Indictment in general, and pleaded *Not Guilty*; but better considering with himself, he desired to retract that Plea, and plead *Guilty* as to the Conspiracy against the Kings Life, but would not confess his procuring Arms; yet upon his Tryal, it was plainly proved that a Horse and Arms were provided, and that he was concerned in the Assassination, that he had been at several traiterous consults,

and maliciously spoken divers Treasonable words, most of which he owned in Court, seeming greatly troubled that he had consented to so great a Wickedness, declaring to God and the World, that *Richard Goodenough* had seduced him, and persuaded him to enter into the Hellish Conspiracy, as also some others of the Conspirators, by insinuating the pretended grievances of the Nation, and laying before him the advantage that would accrue thereby.

John Rouse this time failing of an *Ignoramus Jury*, having been upon his Tryal at the *Old Baley* found Guilty of divers Conspiracies, and Trayterous Contrivances against the Life of His Majesty, contrived and committed, according as it was given in Evidence against him, both before and since his being a Prisoner in the *Tower*, was Sentenced for High Treason, together with *Walcot* and *Hone*; the Sentence being, That they, and either of them should return to the place from whence they came, and from thence be drawn upon Hurdles, or Sledges, to the place of Execution, and there be Hanged up by the Necks, then cut down alive, their Bowels taken out, and Privities cut off to be burnt before their Faces, their Heads cut off, and Quarters divided, &c. Upon which, *Rouse* made a long Preamble about his being Innocent, as to many particulars, yet declared he was willing to submit to the Law, &c.

The Tryals over, and Sentence as is specified, they were carryed to *Newgate*, where, for the most part, they were kept assunder, yet had divers of their Friends came to visit them, and many godly Ministers to give them advice for their Souls health, laying before them the heinousness of the Crime; and the rather, because they had sinned against such goodness, and aggravated the Crime in Conspiring against the Life of a Prince, under whom they did and might have Lived happily; but seeing Divine Justice had overtaken them, and no hopes of continuing long in this World, that they would bethink themselves, and spend the few moments that were left them to the advantage of their Immortal Souls, and not through neglect render themselves doubly wretched: To this and such like Ghostly advice they were observed to be very attentive, especially *Hone*, who expressed abundance of sorrow for the greatness of his offence, saying, that by reason of his former Sins, and his refusing to be reclaimed, God had suffered him to fall into this great Temptation, desiring, the Prayers of all good men, saying that if he might Live, all the business of his Life would prove insufficient to expiate so great a Crime.

Walcot and *Rouse* appeared more retired and reserved, the former seeming for the most part willtuly obstinate or morose; yet in his countenance appeared a remorse and regret for what he had Acted, seeming rather to confess than deny the horrid design, &c.

Rouse was observed for the most part to be greatly dejected, often Lamenting his wretched state; and thus continued these Miscreants, whom Malice, hope of Gain or Preference has brought to ruin and a shameful though deserved end, on this 20th. of July, on which day they were drawn upon Sledges to the place of Execution, where after they had expressed a sorrow for the heinous Conspiracy, and treasonable Crimes intended against the Life of the best of Kings, &c. and said some short Prayers, they suffered according to the Sentence aforesaid.

The

The Executioner Imboweling and Quartering them, the Quarters we are informed are by His Majesties Bounty restored to their Relations: And thus fell those miserable men the sad Example of offended Justice, having brought themselves to shameful ends, by designing the blackest of Crimes; but 'tis often apparent, that those who act against the Lives of Sacred Kings, frequently fall into the Snare themselves have laid, as it was observed by the inhumane Monsters that Trayterously, barbarously and Villainously Mur-thered His Majesties Father of Blessed memory, and indeed in all Ages wherein such wicked designs have taken Birth: For God has declared, *He that spils Mans Blood, by Man shall his Blood be spilt.* And certainly to contrive and design it by Hellish and Diabolick Conspiracies, is no less heinous in the sight of the Just Creator: Therefore I hope this timely and most Miraculous discovery, together with the punishment inflicted upon the Tray-tors will prove a sufficient warning to deter others from the like inhumane undertaking.

FINIS.

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